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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/669,871  | 09/24/2003  | Ip Sing Chung        | MCHK/135/US         | 5136             |
| 2543  | 7590        | 03/08/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| ALIX YALE & RISTAS LLP<br>750 MAIN STREET<br>SUITE 1400<br>HARTFORD, CT 06103 |             |                      | MAL, TRI M          |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 3727                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/669,871

Applicant(s)

CHUNG, IP SING

Examiner

Tri M. Mai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____   |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____                                     |

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1. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (6176613), or in the alternative, over Chen in view of Kim (5624035). Chen teaches a carry bag having flexible outer and inner walls and valve. Note the longitudinal rib 23 shown in Fig. 3A.

In the alternative, Kim teaches that it is known in the art to provide rib structures between two layers including longitudinal and horizontal ribs as shown in Fig. 7. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the longitudinal and horizontal ribs in Chen as taught by Kim to provide added reinforcement.

2. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen rejection as set forth above, in view of Carlson (20020029832). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a strap with a pair of fasteners at each end to provide an alternative carrying strap.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by any one of Fall (3891082) or Muller-Sherak (3818962) or Gerald (3556186). Fall teaches a bag having flexible outer and inner walls, a valve and an opening, and longitudinal ribs (note the outer and inner walls attached together at the rib areas).

Muller-Sherak teaches a bag having flexible outer and inner walls, a valve and an opening, and longitudinal ribs (between pockets in panels 2).

Gerard teaches a bag having flexible outer and inner walls, a valve and an opening, and longitudinal ribs 23 in Fig. 1.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jordan (4164970). Jordan teaches a bag in Fig. 8 having flexible outer and inner walls, a valve 4 and an opening, and longitudinal ribs 16. To the degree it is argued that the Fig. 8 does not teach the valve. It

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would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the valve in the embodiment of Fig. 8 to enable one to inject air into the walls.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fall or Jordan or Muller-Sherak in view of Carlson (20020029832). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a strap with a pair of fasteners at each end to provide an alternative carrying strap.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. It is noted that the Chen teaches a plurality of ribs including longitudinal ribs as shown in Fig. 3A.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri M. Mai whose telephone number is (571)272-4541. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Newhouse can be reached on (571)272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tri M. Mai  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3727

